



Know Your Rights: 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth Experiencing Homelessness In a Changing Landscape

June 24, 2026 | 3:00 - 4:00 PM Eastern

NATIONAL

NETWORK
for **YOUTH**

Welcome!

- Introduce yourself in chat: Name, pronouns, organization, location, and an emoji of how your day is going so far. 😭 😄 😢 😨 😡 😊
- Ask questions in the Q&A throughout the presentation.
- The webinar slides and a recording will be available on our [Know Your Rights Webpages](#).
- Please complete this survey following the webinar so we can improve for next time.



Our Speakers



Tori Ikeda (she/her)

National Youth Advisory Council
Member

NN4Y



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Agenda

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About National Network for Youth

NN4Y is on a mission to transform systems so that no young person in America experiences homelessness.

NN4Y works with youth who have experienced homelessness and youth service providers from across the country to prevent and end youth, young adult, and young parent family homelessness and human trafficking. Together, we envision a future in which all young people have a safe place to call home, with endless opportunities to achieve their fullest potential.



Our Programs

- Federal Policy Advocacy
- Youth + Youth Adult Partnerships
- Community-Based Solutions

Join our newsletter: nn4youth.org/subscribe

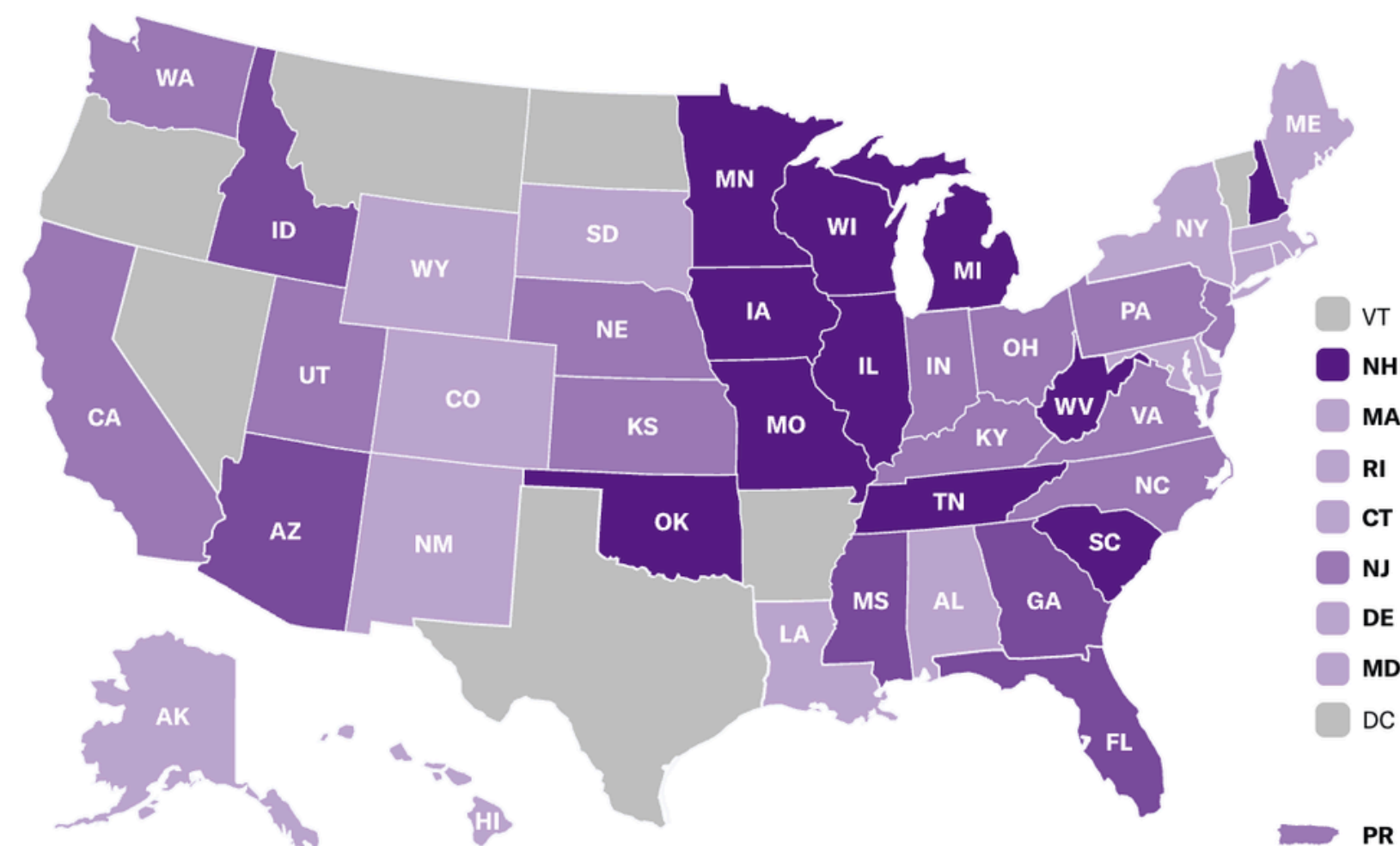
What does 2SLGBTQIA+ stand for?



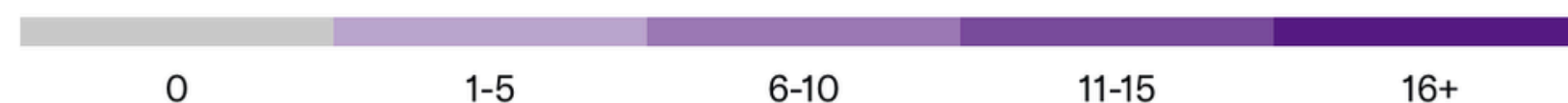
2S Two-Spirit
L Lesbian
G Gay
B Bisexual
T Transgender
Q Queer
I Intersex
A Asexual
+ Plus (Represents the many identities not explicitly listed, including pansexual, nonbinary, genderfluid, agender, & more.)

Anti-LGBTQ Bills

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is tracking **530** Anti-2SLGBTQIA+ bills in the U.S.



Bills per state



Knowing Your Rights As 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth



Access to Shelter and Housing



You should have equal access to shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing programs, meaning you should not be turned away because of your 2SLGBTQIA+ identity.

- The right to live in a safe, healthy home and be provided with basic needs (meals, clothing, and medical care).
- The right to be free from physical abuse, sexual abuse, or neglect of your basic needs.
- The right to not be locked in any room, building, or facility premises. The right to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, mental or physical disability, or HIV status

Access to Health Care



While you have the legal right to not be discriminated against because of your 2SLGBTQIA+ identity, there is sadly no federal law that protects your right to receive gender-affirming care.

- The right to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, mental or physical disability, or HIV status.
- The right to receive medical, mental health, vision and dental services (sometimes without parental consent).
- The right to have your privacy protected by prohibiting the release of your health information or medical records.
- The right to refuse medications or chemical substances not authorized by a doctor.

Access to Employment



A 2020 Supreme Court decision stated that people cannot be discriminated against in employment based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. (The decision only applies to organizations with 15 or more employees.)

- The right to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, mental or physical disability, or HIV status.
- The right to be free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

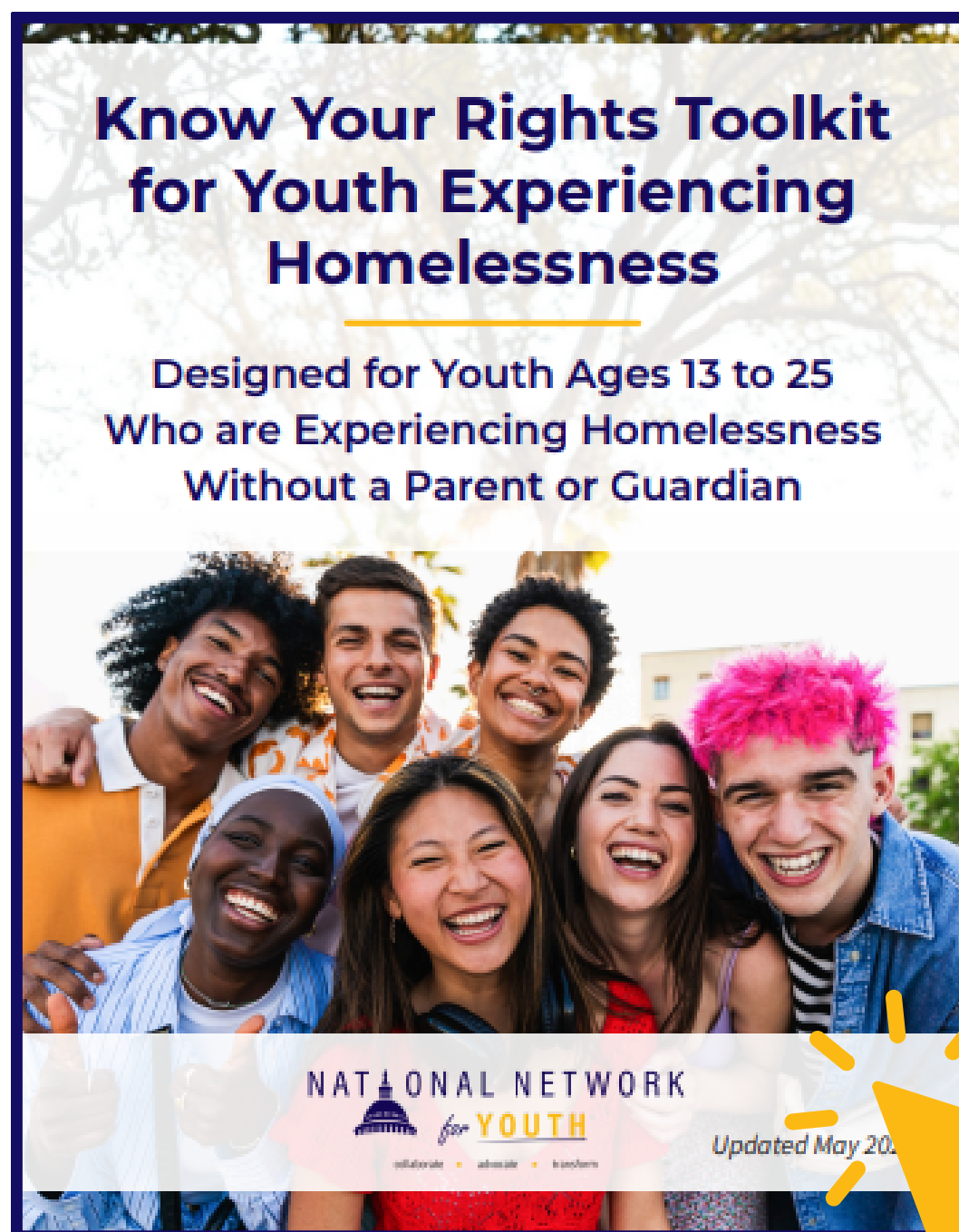
Access to Education



If you are a K-12 student experiencing homelessness, there is a federal law that protects your right to stay in your public school of choice.

- The right to be free from discrimination on the basis of race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, mental or physical disability, or HIV status. The right to enroll in public K-12 school if you're experiencing homelessness. Every public K-12 school district has a homeless liaison to help you.
- The right to be provided with transportation, free meals, and other support you might need to stay in school, like supplies or tutoring.
- The right to participate in school activities, extracurriculars, and social activities. You can ask your school to waive any fees that might come with these.

NN4Y Know Your Rights Toolkit



If you want to take a deeper dive into the rights you have as a young person, check out the Youth Rights Toolkit we put together at NN4Y.

It's designed for youth ages 13–25 who are experiencing homelessness without a parent or guardian.

Gender-Affirming Care & Support for Youth & Young Adults



Gender- Affirming Care & Support for Youth & Young Adults

Gender-affirming care for homeless youth encompasses medical, psychological, and social support services that validate a young person's gender identity. For unhoused youth this care serves as a critical safety net, providing the foundation needed to survive life while being housing insecure, reduce suicide rates, and eventually transition to stable housing.

- Access to gender-affirming healthcare: Connect youth to 2SLGBTQIA+ healthcare providers, HRT, and affirming mental health services.
- Access to affirming resources: Provide binders, gender-affirming clothing, and other items that support self-expression and identity.
- Safe housing: Ensure access to affirming housing with trained staff, gender-appropriate placements, and anti-discrimination policies.
- Mental health support: Offer trauma-informed therapy and peer support tailored to 2SLGBTQIA+ youth.

Respecting Pronouns and Chosen Names Is A Part of Client Safety

Identity is self-defined. Always use the name and pronouns a youth asks you to use, regardless of their legal identification or appearance.



Ask simply: “What pronouns do you use?”

- Identify who and where you can use what pronoun (family, friends, partner(s), legal documents etc.)



Ask: “What name would you like me to use?” -Identify who and where you can use what pronoun (family, friends, partner(s), legal documents etc.)

- Create a safe space by introducing yourself with your pronouns (e.g., "Hi, my name is Marcellus, and I use they/them pronouns"). This invites youth to share theirs without pressure.

Respecting Pronouns and Chosen Names Is A Part of Client Safety



Normalize Chosen Names in Documents: Use chosen names on intake sheets, nametags, and in casual conversation, even if legally required on intake sheets request legal name separately.



Maintain Confidentiality: Never "out" a young person by sharing their deadname or gender identity with other residents, staff, or family members without their explicit, informed consent. Doing so can put them in physical danger.



Apologize and Move On: If you make a mistake by accidentally deadnaming and/or misgendering someone, quickly apologize, correct yourself, and move forward without making a big deal or centering your own discomfort.

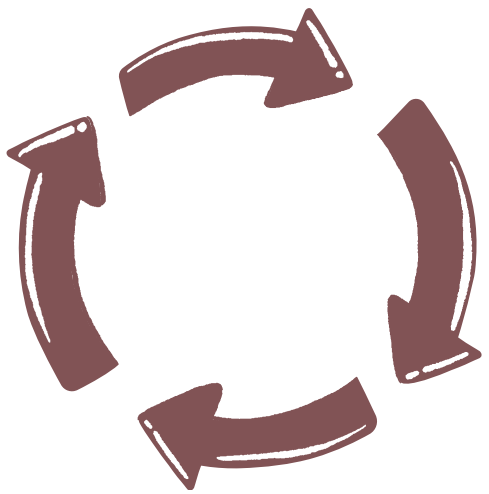
2SLGBTQIA+ Liaison Support



2SLGBTQIA+ liaisons act as a direct bridge and guiding support system for queer youth. They connect young people and their families to safe, identity-affirming resources, including healthcare, housing, and legal assistance, while removing the barriers of navigating complex systems alone.

- **Resource Navigation:** Work one-on-one with young adults to clarify their needs and coordinate referrals to vetted, identity-affirming mental/physical healthcare providers, employment, legal resources, and education.
- **Provider Training:** Lead 2SLGBTQIA+ competency trainings and provide ongoing support to help staff and providers deliver affirming, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed services.
- **Inclusive Policies:** Review, develop, and support implementation of policies that protect 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and staff, including non-discrimination, gender inclusion, confidentiality, and affirming practices.

Comprehensive Wraparound Supports



2SLGBTQIA+ youth thrive when they have access to coordinated, identity-affirming support that addresses their whole well-being. Comprehensive wraparound services should include:

- **Housing Support:** Access to safe, affirming housing and shelter options that respect gender identity and expression.
- **Case Management:** Assistance navigating housing, education, employment, benefits, and legal systems.
- **Natural Supports:** Connections to supportive adults, chosen family, peer networks, and community resources.
- **Community Connections:** Link youth to affirming organizations, cultural spaces, and social networks that promote belonging and long-term stability.

Know Your Rights: Taking Action



Support—Empower—Connect



- Organizations, individuals, peers, and allies provide critical frontline support and protections for youth and young adults
- Not every space is going to be safe, but we have the control uplift concerns and create changes

Taking Action

Gender affirming products

Resources

Continued staff training

Protections

Resources

Hotlines

- [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) • Call/Text 988
- [Trevor Project for 2SLGBTQIA+ Youth in Crisis](#) • Call/Text 1-866-488-7386
- [National Runaway Safeline](#) • Call/Text 1-800-786-2929
- [National Immigration Detention Hotline](#) • Call 9233#
- [Vital Documents Hotline for Youth](#) • Call/Text 1-888-870-3627
- [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) • Call 1-800-799-7233 OR Text “START” to 88788
- [LGBT National Hotline](#) • Call 888-843-4564 / [Youth Talkline](#) • Call 800-246-7743
 - [LGBT National Coming Out Support Hotline](#) • Call 888-688-5428
- [Trans Lifeline](#) • Call/Text 1-877-565-8860

Programs

- [Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS \(HOPWA\)](#)
- [Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program](#)

Gender Affirming Items

Gender Affirming Products

Binders, trans tape, makeup, haircuts, non-gendered clothing closet that are available on campus or through referral

- [The Queer Trans Project](#)
- [I Support The Girls](#)



GENDER AFFIRMING PRODUCTS PROGRAM
YOUTH APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW

GAPP Youth is a program for youth (17 or younger) under the trans umbrella in Eastern Washington and North Idaho seeking access to gender affirming products and services.



SPECTRUM CENTER

CLOSET CASE Thrift Store operated by **WE ARE FAMILY**

GENDER AFFIRMING GEAR CARE AND TIPS

CHEST BINDERS
WASHING & DRYING
Hand or machine wash in cold water on gentle. Do not machine dry. Instead drip or dry flat. Do not iron or place the garment on any heat source. Do not use bleach.
WEAR TIME
Try not to wear your binder for more than 8 hours at a time. If you need to wear one for longer or during exercise or sleep, consider going a size up.
HOW BINDERS FIT
Your binder should fit snugly but you should still be able to breathe and move in it. If you feel that you have gotten the wrong size contact us ASAP because used binders can't be returned.
PUTTING IT ON
Hold both shoulder straps and step into the garment. Pull it up your body, slide your arms in the armholes and adjust for comfort.

PROSTHETICS
WASHING & DRYING
Wash with mild hand soap and air-dry. Once dry, dust with cornstarch powder to restore texture. 100% Silicone prosthetics can be sterilized by boiling for up to three minutes.
STORAGE
If you have multiple prosthetics or other items, store each one in its own fabric bag or sock to avoid possible rresions. Some soft materials can damage the surface of other items when left in contact for a long time.
SKIN SENSITIVITIES
If you have sensitive skin or chemical sensitivities 100% silicone devices are best. Packing underwear, straps or jock straps can help remove skin contact.

TUCKING TAPE
Choose a hypoallergenic medical tape or sports tape designed specifically for use on skin. You may need to try a few to find one that works best for your skin.
Before tucking, remove or trim body hair to make tape removal easier. Use a protective barrier wipe on the skin before applying tape. When removing tape, use a skin-safe adhesive-remover or soak the tape in warm water. Remove tape slowly and gently.
Tucking can be uncomfortable at first. Talk to your doctor if you have circulatory or skin related conditions, and never tuck with damaged or bruised skin.

TRANS TAPE
Always use tape intended for the body, NEVER use duct tape or Ace bandages to bind your chest. Binding with these materials can restrict your ability to breathe and move properly. Taping can be better than a traditional binder as it does not restrict, constrict or compress your body or organs at all. Taping allows for the full range of motion, mobility, and breathing. It is more discreet than binding as it does not cover the back, chest, or shoulders and is not visible under your garments.
TransTape is waterproof and sweatproof allowing for it to be worn through many vigorous activities including swimming in the ocean or a pool, showering and bathing. It will dry naturally on its own but pressing the towel against your chest and squeezing as opposed to rubbing it so dry as this will curl up the edges and lessen the strength of the adhesive.

HAVE QUESTIONS? REACH US AT
CLOSETCASETHRIFTSTORE@GMAIL.COM OR 509.485.2074

2SLGBTQIA+ Youth: Where to File Discrimination Complaints?

- **Housing:** Report to the [HUD](#) no later than one year of the incident.
- **Health Care:** Report to [HHS](#) within 180 days of the incident.
- **School:** Report to the [ED's Office for Civil Rights](#) within 180 days of the incident.
- **Employment:** Report to [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#) within 180 days of the incident. Some types of cases, like age discrimination, give you 300 days to report.

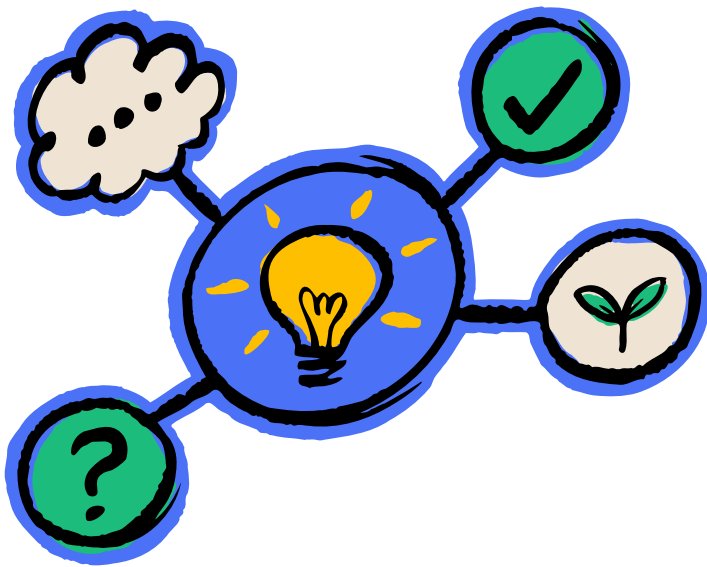
Lambda Legal: [Help Desk](#) for general legal information and resources related to discrimination.



Take Charge of Your Rights

- ☐ Write down exactly what happened as soon as you can so you can remember the details.
 - ☐ What was the situation? ☐ Where and when did it happen? ☐ Who was involved?
 - ☐ What kind of discrimination did you face? ☐ Were there witnesses who can back you up?
- ☐ Keep receipts—emails, texts, photos, etc.
- ☐ Find out who you need to report your complaint to and what information they need.
- ☐ File your complaint and track its progress—keep any updates you get, like emails.
-  What you can say: “I believe I was discriminated against because of my *[race, religion, sexual orientation, etc]*. The discrimination happened at *[place]*. How do I file a complaint?”

Training



2SLGBTQIA+ Training

- Continuing education to be up to date on best practices and approaches.
- Trainings should be by 2SLGBTQIA+ people

Organizations that Provide 2SLGBTQIA+ Trainings by 2SLGBTQIA+ People

- [Ali Forney Center](#): Free technical assistance to Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) providers and organizations serving unhoused youth.
- [Youth Space](#): Free trainings for individuals, organizations, and communities including, schools, health care providers, businesses, and community groups.

Organizational Self-Assessment

Framework for youth-serving organizations to assess and continue forward moving impact



collaborate • advocate • transform

2SLGBTQIA+ Organizational Self-Assessment

A framework for youth-serving organizations moving from surface-level allyship to structural change.

1. Policy Audit

How affirming and protective are your written policies?
Where do 2SLGBTQIA+ youth experience friction in your current policies? Who reviews your policies and ask are 2SLGBTQIA+ youth part of that process?

Indicators	Red Flags
- Nondiscrimination policy names sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. - Intake forms include chosen name, pronouns, and gender options beyond binary. - Housing placement follows youth-led choice.	- Gender listed only as M/F. - Staff override youth's stated name or pronouns. - Housing based on "biological sex." - No written consequences for anti-2SLGBTQIA+ behavior.

Rate (1–4): ____

2. Partnerships

How connected are you to 2SLGBTQIA+-serving organizations?
What barriers keep you from partnering with LGBTQ+ orgs? How do you ensure partnerships benefit youth, not just optics?

Indicators	Red Flags
Formal referral pathways or MOUs exist.	- No known 2SLGBTQIA+ partner. - Partnerships only during Pride Month.



Questions?

I AM HERE: Vital Document Legal Hotline for Youth

A free, dedicated state-specific legal assistance hotline for **youth experiencing homelessness** to help obtain:

State ID cards and licenses

Social Security Cards

Birth certificates

Documents needed to obtain an ID and license

**Text or
Call!**

1-888-870-DOCS

*Voicemails and texts are welcome and will be returned.

Every Wednesday

12 to 8 PM Eastern | 11 AM to 7 PM Central

10 AM to 6 PM Mountain | 9 AM to 5 PM Pacific

**Baker
McKenzie.**

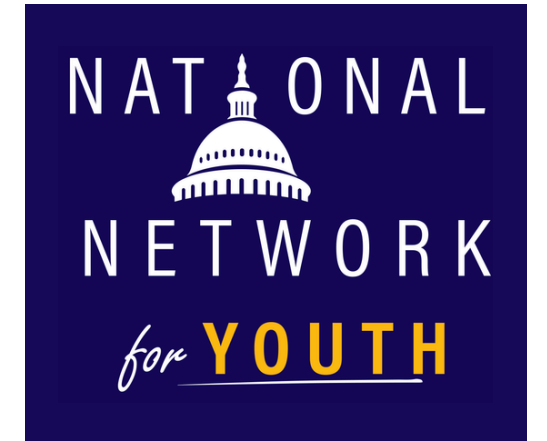
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TAKE FLIGHT RAFFLE

Beginning
June 1, 2026



Enter the Raffle!

Win two roundtrip tickets with Alaska Airlines worth up to \$1,250!

Every ticket purchased isn't just a chance to win, but an investment in our collective fight to **prevent and end youth homelessness.**

Proceeds go directly towards **National Network for Youth's** work **protecting core programs** that support youth experiencing homelessness.



Upcoming NN4Y Events

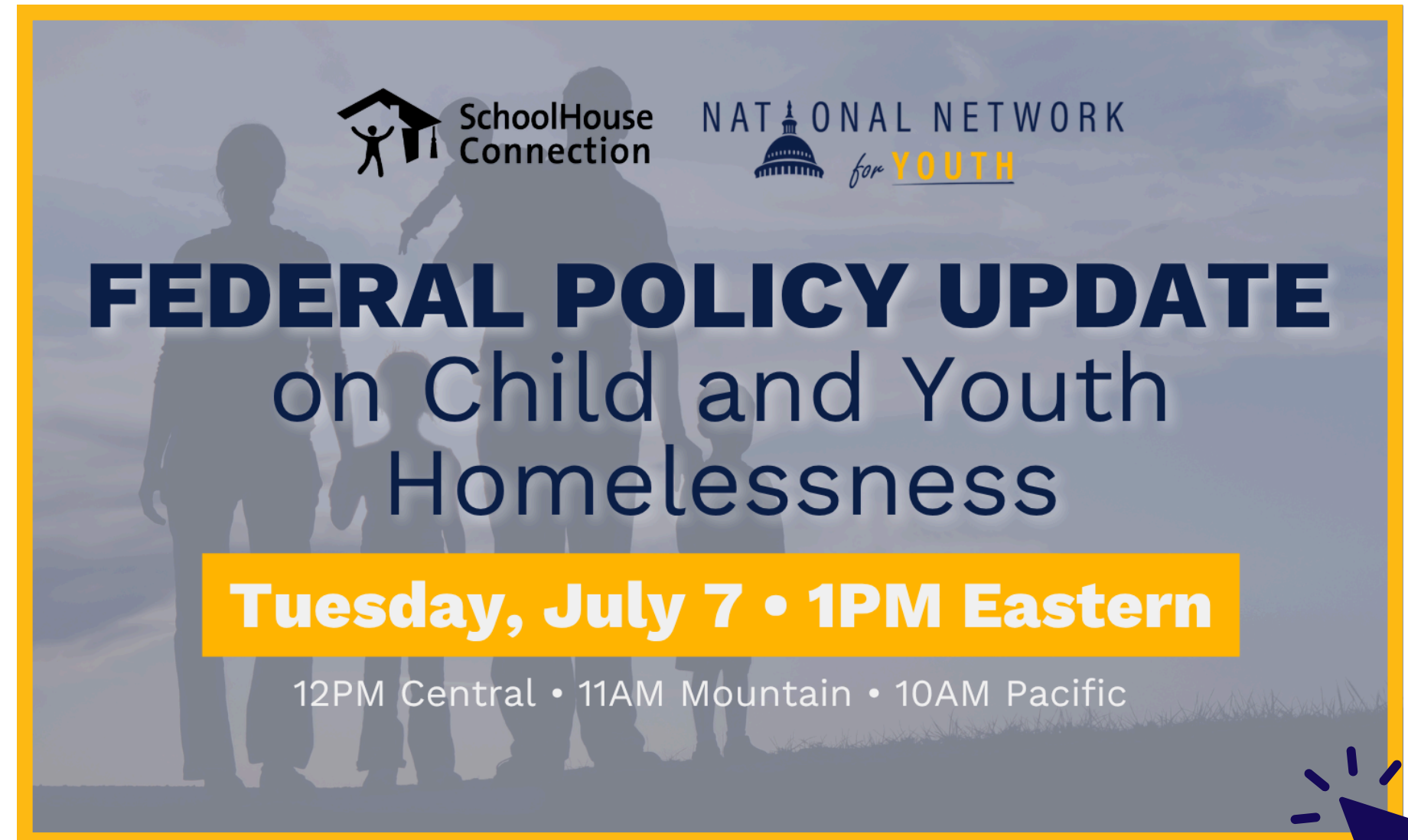


The poster features a background image of a laptop keyboard, a notebook, and a pen. The text is centered and reads:

**Local Cross-System
Collaborative 2026 Cohort
Information Session**

June 25, 2026 | 2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern
1:00 PM CT • 12:00 PM MT • 11:00 AM PT

NATIONAL NETWORK
for YOUTH



The poster features a background image of silhouettes of people walking. The text is centered and reads:

SchoolHouse Connection NATIONAL NETWORK
for YOUTH

**FEDERAL POLICY UPDATE
on Child and Youth
Homelessness**

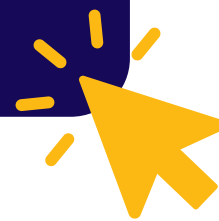
Tuesday, July 7 • 1PM Eastern

12PM Central • 11AM Mountain • 10AM Pacific

Get Connected to NN4Y



Sign Up for Our
Listserv!



- **Join Our Network:** [Become a Member](#)
- **Mobilize Your Community:** [Training & Consulting Services](#)
- **Meet with Your Member of Congress:** [Policy & Advocacy](#)
- **Vital Document Legal Hotline for Youth:** [Join Our Referral Network](#)

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